

The following letter was written by the HIV Medicaid/Medicare Working Group urging President Bush not to make cuts in Medicaid funding or harmful changes to the program. It was signed by 280 organizations.

Protect Medicaid for People With HIV

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

January 27, 2005

Dear Mr. President,

The undersigned organizations that serve and advocate for people living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS are writing to strongly urge you not to propose cuts in Medicaid funding and/or any changes in the program's structure that would alter the open-ended financing for states. We also urge you not to weaken the individual entitlement or other key consumer protections that have helped Medicaid to serve the national interest so effectively for nearly four decades.

Medicaid is the largest source of federal financing for HIV/AIDS care in the United States. The program provides access to healthcare for 55% of all people living with HIV/AIDS, and 90% of all children living with AIDS. It plays a critical role in providing access to anti-HIV drugs that forestall illness and disability, and allow people to live longer, more productive lives. While Medicare and the Ryan White CARE Act are vital components of the national system of health care for people with HIV/AIDS, they do not have the resources and are not appropriately designed to respond to unmet needs if structure changes were made to Medicaid that would result in either fewer people qualifying for coverage or if states were forced to restrict services. Thus, any cuts or changes in Medicaid's financing structure will seriously jeopardize access to HIV/AIDS care in the United States.

Furthermore, we are firmly opposed to changes in the current structure of the Medicaid program that would turn the program into a block grant or cap federal funding. The individual entitlement provided under Medicaid is essential. The reliable and consistent federal funding stream allows the program to respond to increases in demand as more people with AIDS are identified - an important goal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advancing HIV Prevention initiative, and supports access to more effective, less toxic anti-HIV therapies as they are developed.

The health of our country's most vulnerable residents must be viewed as a priority. We ask that you create a budget proposal for FY 2006 that ensures adequate Medicaid funding and maintains the program's current structure so that it can continue to meet the needs of people with HIV/AIDS and others who rely on this lifesaving program.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Clary at (415) 558-8669 x224 or rclary@projectinform.org.

Sincerely,

Mobile AIDS Support Services, Mobile, AL
 One Love HIV/AIDS Outreach of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Mobile, AL
 West Alabama AIDS Outreach, Tuscaloosa, AL
 HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska, Anchorage, AK
 BorderLand AIDS Services Team (BLAST), Huachuca City, AZ
 Health Mentoring Services, Dover AR
 HIV/AIDS Law Project Volunteer Lawyers Program, Phoenix, AZ
 Native American Community Health Center, Inc., Phoenix, AZ
 Pueblo Family Physicians, Phoenix, AZ
 AIDS Education Global Information System, San Juan Capistrano, CA
 AIDS/HIV Health Alternatives, North Hollywood, CA
 AIDS Housing Alliance, Sacramento, CA
 AIDS Medicare Coalition Project, San Francisco CA
 AIDS Project Los Angeles, CA
 Antelope Valley Hope Foundation, Lancaster, CA
 Bienestar Human Services, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
 Black AIDS Institute, Los Angeles, CA
 California Prison Focus, San Francisco, CA
 Face to Face, Santa Rosa, CA
 Families In New Directions, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
 F.O.U.N.D., Los Angeles, CA
 Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, San Francisco, CA
 Hands United Together, Panorama City, CA
 Hepatitis C Action & Advocacy Coalition, San Francisco, CA
 Home Health Care Management, Inc., Chico, CA
 Loma Linda University, School of Dentistry, Loma Linda, CA
 MAAP Inc., Sacramento, CA
 Mendocino County AIDS Network, Ukiah, CA
 Monterey County AIDS Project, Seaside, CA
 National Health Law Program, Los Angeles, CA
 Pan Pacific Consulting, North Hollywood, CA
 The Perinatal Council, Oakland, CA
 Project Inform, San Francisco, CA
 Recovery Options, Los Angeles, CA
 The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation (REAF), San Francisco, CA
 San Fernando Valley NAACP, CA
 San Francisco AIDS Foundation, CA
 San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, CA
 San Francisco Suicide Prevention, AIDS/HIV/HepC Nightline, CA
 Tarzana Treatment Centers, Reseda, CA
 University of California/Department of Psychiatry, San Diego, CA
 Western Pacific Med Corp, Glendale, CA
 WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases), Oakland, CA
 Boulder County AIDS Project, Boulder, CO
 Disabled Resource Services, Fort Collins, CO
 The San Luis Valley HIV/AIDS Coalition, South Fork, CO
 AIDS Project Greater Danbury, Danbury, CT
 Leeway, Inc., New Haven, CT
 AIDS Action Council, Washington, DC
 AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families, Washington, DC
 The AIDS Institute, Washington, DC
 American Academy of HIV Medicine, Washington, DC
 American Association of People with Disabilities, Washington, DC
 American Psychological Association, Washington, DC
 CAEAR Coalition: Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief, Washington, DC
 Center for Women Policy Studies, Washington, DC
 Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Washington, DC
 Families USA, Washington, DC
 Human Rights Campaign, Washington, DC
 Legal Action Center, Washington DC
 National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, Washington, DC
 National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US)
 National Coalition for LGBT Health, Washington, DC
 National Coalition of STD Directors, Washington, DC
 National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA), Washington, DC
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Washington, DC
 National Minority AIDS Council, Washington, DC
 Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Washington, DC
 Southern AIDS Coalition, Washington, DC
 Title II Community AIDS National Network, Washington, DC
 Matters of the Heart Ministries, Inc., Milford, DE
 ACT UP MIAMI, FL
 Care Resource, Miami, FL
 CHAINS, Inc., Fort Myers, FL
 DYNs Services, Inc, Bradenton, FL
 Hendry/Glades Departments of Health, Labelle, Florida
 Hep-C ALERT, Inc., North Miami, FL
 The River Fund, Sebastian, FL
 AID Atlanta, GA
 AIDS Survival Project, Atlanta, GA
 AIDS Treatment Initiatives (ATI), Atlanta, GA
 Aniz, Inc., Atlanta, GA
 Georgia Rural Urban Summit, Decatur, GA
 Greater Deliverance Ministries, Inc., Blakely, GA
 Living Room, Inc., Atlanta, GA
 The North Georgia AIDS Alliance, Gainesville, GA
 One Earth Foundation, Inc., Decatur, GA
 Our Common Welfare, Inc., Decatur, GA
 North Idaho AIDS Coalition, Coeur d'Alene, ID
 AIDSCARE, Inc., Chicago, IL
 The AIDS Drug Assistance Protocol Fund, Chicago, IL
 AIDS Foundation of Chicago, IL
 AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, IL
 All About YOU~Being Your Best, Chicago, IL
 Bethany Place, Belleville, IL
 Canticle Ministries, Wheaton, IL
 Central Illinois FRIENDS of PWA, Inc., Peoria, IL
 Chicago House and Social Service Agency, IL
 Chicago Recovery Alliance, Chicago, IL
 Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Chicago, IL
 Garfield Counseling Center, Inc./Sisters Of Sobriety, Chicago, IL
 Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Chicago, IL
 Howard Area Community Center, Chicago, IL
 McLean County AIDS Task Force, Bloomington, IL
 Metro Hetro (HIV+ Support Group), Beckemeyer, IL
 Mt. Sinai Hospital, Chicago, IL
 New Phoenix Assistance Center, Chicago, IL
 Open Door Clinic, Elgin, IL
 Peoria City/County Health Department, Peoria, IL
 Quad Citians Affirming Diversity, Rock Island, IL
 Recovery 2000, Inc., Chicago, IL
 Resources Unlimited Foundation, Oak Park, IL
 Students for Global Public Health, Physicians for Human Rights, University of Chicago, IL
 Test Positive Aware Network, Chicago, IL
 Universal Family Connection, Inc., Chicago, IL
 University of Chicago Hospitals, Adult HIV Care Center, Chicago, IL

University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center, IL

University of Illinois at Chicago, HIV AIDS Project, IL

The Bethlehem House, Indianapolis, IN

Brothers Uplifting Brothers, Gary, IN

YWCA of St. Joseph County, South Bend, IN

Imani! Dancers Studio for Cultural Arts, Davenport, IA

Wilson Resource Center, Arnolds Park, IA

Urban League of the MidPlains, Wichita, KS

Matthew 25 AIDS Services, Inc., Henderson, KY

Brotherhood Task Force of NWLA, Shreveport, LA

HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two, Inc. (HAART), Baton Rouge, LA

Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN), Bangor, ME

Maine AIDS Alliance, Augusta, ME

Maine HIV Advisory Committee, Scarborough, ME

Northern Maine Ryan White Title III Program Consumer Board, Lubec, ME

Portland Department of Health and Human Services/Infectious Disease Program, ME

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Case Management Department, Lewiston, ME

AIDS Action Baltimore, MD

Grateful, Inc., Baltimore, MD

National Public Health Forum, Columbia, MD

Tapestry Health, Florence, Ma

Treatment Access Expansion Project, Silver Spring, MD

AIDS Action Committee, Boston, MA

OASIS HIV Consortium, Danvers, MA

Provincetown AIDS Support Group, MA

Search for a Cure, Boston, MA

Tri-County AIDS Consortium, Provincetown, MA

Community Aids Resources and Education Services of Southwest Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI

Michigan Advocates Exchange, Inc., Belleville MI

Michigan Positive Action Coalition, Grand Rapids, MI

Law Office of Kendra S. Kleber & Associates PLLC, Belleville, MI

University of Michigan HIV/AIDS Treatment Program, Arbor, MI

Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Saint Paul, MN

South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, Biloxi, MS

The AIDS Foundation of St. Louis, MO

Good Samaritan Project, Kansas City, MO

National Rural Health Association, Kansas City, MO

Northern Nevada HIV Outpatient Program, Education and Services (HOPES), Reno, NV

Ryan White Title I Las Vegas EMA Planning Council, Las Vegas, NV

AIDS Community Resource Network (ACORN), Lebanon, NH

AIDS Response-Seacoast, Portsmouth, NH

AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region, Keene, NH

Southern NH AIDS Task Force, Nashua, NH

The AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey, Bellmawr, NJ

African American Office of Gay Concerns, Newark, NJ

Bethel Development corporation, Millville, NJ

Community Health Law Project, Trenton, NJ

Cooper Early Intervention Program, Camden, NJ

Corpus Christi Ministries Housing, Jersey City, NJ

Dooley House, Inc., Camden, NJ

Francis House, Camden, NJ

Garden State Equality, Glen Rock, NJ

Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County (GAAMC), Convent Station, NJ

GRAANJ Gender Rights Advocacy Association of New Jersey, RedBank, NJ

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, New Brunswick, NJ

Interfaith Council For The Homeless of Union County, Plainfield, NJ

Jersey City Connections, Inc., Jersey City, NJ

Jersey City Episcopal Community Development Corporation, NJ

JSAS Healthcare, Inc., Asbury Park, NJ

Liberation in Truth UFC HIV/AIDS Prevention & Care Services, Newark, NJ

NAMES Project Foundation, Central New Jersey Chapter, New Brunswick, NJ

New Horizon Treatment Services, Trenton, New Jersey

New Jersey Association on Correction, Trenton NJ

North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI), Newark, NJ

New Jersey Stonewall Democrats, Piscataway, NJ

PACO/GRIP Puertorriqueños Asociados for Community Organization

Grass Roots Initiative Program, Jersey City, NJ

Plainfield Area Equality, Plainfield, NJ

Southern N.J. Regional Family HIV Treatment Center, Camden, NJ

Team 2000 CDC (Community Development Corp.), Elizabeth, NJ

Urban Community Services, Irvington, NJ

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, North Brunswick, NJ

New Mexico Poz Coalition, Santa Fe, NM

Planet Poz, Santa Fe, NM

Southwest CARE Center, Santa Fe, NM

Academy for Educational Development, New York, NY

ACT UP New York, NY

African Salvation Group Corp (ASG), Bronx, NY

After Hours Project, Inc., Brooklyn, NY

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), New York, NY

AIDS-Related Community Services (ARCS), Hawthorne NY

AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition, New York, NY

AIDS Treatment Data Network, New York, NY

AXIOS Eastern Orthodox AIDS Ministry, New York, NY

Bronx AIDS Services, Inc., Bronx, NY

Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, Melville, NY

Chinese-American Planning Council-HIV/AIDS Services, New York, NY

CitiWide Harm Reduction, Bronx, NY

CHAMP (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project), New York, NY

Conscious Contact of New York, Inc., New York, NY

Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, New York, NY

Gay Men of African Descent, New York, NY

Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York

The Greyston Foundation (Maitri Day Program), Yonkers, NY

Harm Reduction Coalition, New York, NY

Health GAP (Global Access Project), New York, NY

HIV Law Project, Inc., New York, NY

The HOPE Center, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Yonkers, NY

Housing Works, New York, NY

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York, NY

The Mount Vernon Hospital, Mount Vernon, NY

NETWORTH/Positive Action, Pleasant Valley, NY

New York AIDS Coalition, New York, NY

NYC AIDS Housing Network, Brooklyn, NY

The NYC Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations, New York, NY

North General Hospital/Dept. of HIV/AIDS, New York, NY

Partnership for Family Health: Northern Manhattan HIV Consortium, New York, NY

St. Mary's Center, New York, NY
 Southern Tier AIDS Program, Johnson City, NY
 Turning Point, Brooklyn, NY
 Treatment Action Group, New York, NY
 Village Care of New York, NY
 Welch Terrace Apartment, Syracuse, NY
 The Association for the Diversity in Motorsports, Greensboro, NC
 AMITY Outreach Ministry, Roxboro, NC
 Brother 2 Brother, INC., Winston- Salem, NC
 Coastal Women's Shelter, Inc., New Bern, NC
 Craven C.A.R.E.S. Inc., New Bern, NC
 North Carolina Council for Positive Living, Burlington, NC
 The Philadelphia House, Greenville, NC
 Right Turns for Youth, Winston-Salem, NC
 Triad Health Project, Greensboro, NC
 Western North Carolina AIDS Project, Asheville, NC
 AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
 Ohio AIDS Coalition, Columbus, OH
 Medical College of Ohio Hospital Ryan White Title III & IV, Toledo, OH
 Ursuline Sisters HIV/AIDS Ministry, Canfield, OH
 AIDS Action Project NorthWest (AAPNW), Portland OR
 Brother to Brother of Portland, OR
 Cascade AIDS Project, Portland, OR
 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Services program, Portland, OR
 Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program, Oregon City, OR
 HIV Advocacy Project of Oregon and SW Washington, Portland OR
 HIV Alliance, Eugene, OR
 International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS (IFARA), Portland, OR
 Partnership Project, Portland, OR
 ACTUP Philadelphia, PA
 ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, Philadelphia, PA
 Angelic Cleaning, Philadelphia, PA
 Better Days, Marian Anderson Recreation Center, Philadelphia PA
 Family Service Association of Bucks County HIV/AIDS Program, Langhorne, PA
 PLGTF Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force, Philadelphia, PA
 AIDS Project Rhode Island, Providence, RI
 The Immunology Center, Miriam Hospital, Brown University, Providence, RI
 Charleston County Health Department, SC
 Roddey HIV/STD Collaborative Project, Lancaster SC
 South Carolina Women's Advocacy Council (SWAC), Columbia, SC
 Tennessee AIDS Support Services, Inc., Knoxville, TN
 The Advocacy Project of Texas, Houston, TX
 Beat Aids, San Antonio, TX
 The Center for AIDS, Houston TX 77006
 GIFF, God in Full Force, Dallas, TX
 Hep C Advocate Network, Inc. (HepCAN), Longview, TX
 International AIDS Empowerment, El Paso, TX
 The Next Step, Houston, TX
 Northshore Counseling Center, Inc., Houston, TX
 People's Caucus, San Antonio, TX
 Texas AIDS Network, Austin, TX
 Tyler AIDS Services, Inc., Tyler, TX
 AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, Brattleboro, VT
 R.U.1.2? Queer Community Center, Burlington, VT
 Twin States Network, Bellows Falls, VT
 Vermont People with AIDS Coalition, Montpelier, VT
 American Medical Student Association (AMSA), Reston, VA
 HIV Medicine Association, Alexandria, VA
 AIDS Housing Association of Tacoma, WA
 Community Health Care, Tacoma, WA
 Frontline Hepatitis Awareness, Monroe, WA
 Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Seattle, WA
 Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Tacoma, WA
 Seattle HIV/AIDS Planning Council, WA
 Spokane AIDS Network, WA
 WV HIV Care Consortium, Wheeling, WV
 West Virginia Coalition for People with HIV/AIDS, Charleston, WV
 AIDS Network, Madison, WI